COMPETING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: Demands for Environmental Quality Nancy Bryson General Counsel, USDA





ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ISSUES

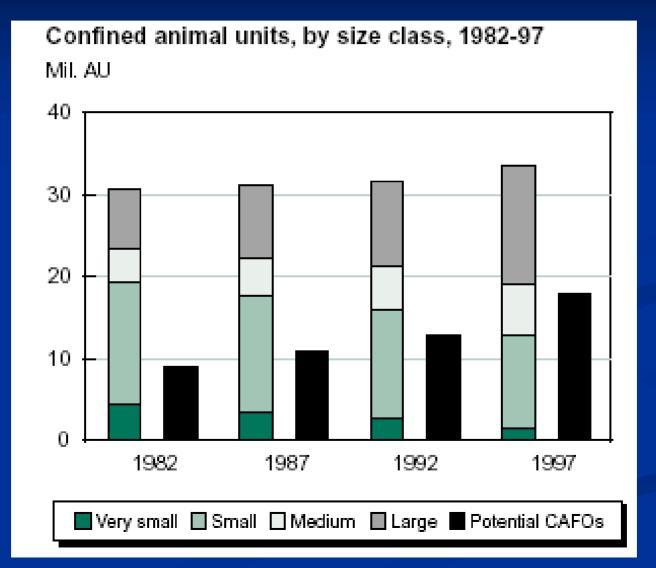
Water
Air
Endangered Species
Ecosystem/Watershed

Reducing Air Pollution and Improving Productivity: The Dairy Industry Example

	1960	1990
Milk/cow/yr	3195 kg	7000 kg
CH4/cow/yr	76.1 kg	114.6 kg
CH4/Kg milk	24 gms	17 gms
Dairy Cows	17.5 million	10.1 million
Total milk	55.9 mil. Tons	65.6 mil. Tons
Total CH4	1.33Tg	1.16 Tg

10 million tons more milk and 170,000 tons less methane than 30 years ago

Consolidation



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

TOOLBOX

- 1. Environmental Law
 - Old Laws
 - Litigation as a Bellwether
 - Need to QuantifyAgricultural Benefits

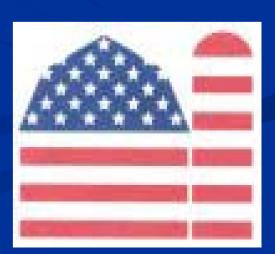
TOOLBOX

2. Farm Bill Conservation Programs Economic Incentive

- Land Retirement (CRP, WRP)
- Working Land (EQIP, CSP, WHIP)

Economic Disincentive

- Swampbuster



TOOLBOX

- 3. Best Management Practices
- 4. Private Sector Trading Programs (Air, Water, Carbon Sequestration)
 - Quantifiable
 - Permanent
 - Surplus
 - Enforceable
 - Original amounts in inventory

CHALLENGES

Outdistancing Litigation
Innovation/Incentives
Measuring Progress
Sustainability



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS